Expansion of commercial space launches by ISRO

1340. SHRIMATI MOHSINA KIDWAI: SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether launching of ISRO's first commercial launch coinciding its 50th year celebrations has devolved more responsibilities to further improve its competitive capabilities with established international players like USA, Russia, Europe, etc., whether it would strive on leapfrogging to advanced versions of GSLV to facilitate launching of five tonne pay loads into geostationary orbit; and

(b) if so, whether ISRO would divert more funds and focus concerted efforts towards R&D in diversified relevant fields aiming at garnering substantial share of expanding commercial space launches world-wide?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) Yes, Sir. The capability of Indian Launch Vehicles, PSLV & GSLV, is being continuously improved to enhance the competitiveness in the global market. The development of GSLV Mk-III, advanced version of GSLV, capable of launching 4 tonne satellites into Geo-synchronous Transfer Orbit (GTO) is already in progress.

(b) Yes, Sir. As apart of Eleventh Five year plan, ISRO has already initiated R&D activities of relevance to advanced launch vehicle systems including reusable launch vehicles and advanced propulsion technologies, which will enable ISRO to increase its share of commercial launches.

Acquiring land for IIST

†1341. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: SHRI SATYAVRAT CHATURVEDI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the reasons for delay in acquiring land for 'Indian Institute of Space Science and Technology (IIST)' to be set up by Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO);

(b) by when the work of acquiring land would be completed;

(c) the steps being taken by Government to ensure timely completion of IIST building so that it can function smoothly; and

(d) to what extent setting up IIST would be helpful to provide new scientists and to prevent the senior scientists to go abroad?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) and (b) There is no delay in acquisition of land

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

for IIST, 81.5 acres of land which is required for setting up of initial infrastructure for IIST has already been acquired.

(c) Good progress has been made for awarding a contract for construction of IIST facilities in a timely manner.

(d) The main objective of IIST is to help ISRO meet its regular requirement of highly qualified young scientists and engineers every year and provide opportunities for high-end research in Space Science & Technology. Towards this, meritorious students are selected every year and imparted education in three specific branches *i.e.,* Avionics, Aerospace Technology and Integrated Masters Degree in applied sciences to meet the specific needs of ISRO. On successful completion of the course, the. students would be absorbed in ISRO and would be required to serve ISRO for at least 5 years.

Gandhinagar under JNNURM

1342. SHRI KANJIBHAI PATEL:
SHRI KESHUBHAI S. PATEL:

Will the Minister of URBAN DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the time when Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) was launched in the country;

(b) the salient features of the mission;

(c) whether it is a fact that all the capital cities of other States are included in the JNNURM except Gandhinagar, the Capital of Gujarat; and

(d) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF URBAN DEVELOPMENT (SHRI AJAY MAKEN): (a) and (b) The Government of India launched Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) on 3rd December, 2005 aiming at reforms driven, fast track, planned development of identified cities with focus on efficiency in urban infrastructure/services delivery mechanism, community participation and accountability of Urban Local Bodies (ULBsVParastatals towards citizen. A sum of Rs. 50,000 crore has been committed as Additional Central Assistance from Government of India under JNNURM for its two sub-missions, namely, Urban Infrastructure & Governance (Sub-Mission-I) and Basic Services for the Urban Poor (Sub~Mission-II) and two omnibus schemes, namely, Urban Infrastructure- Development Scheme for Small and Medium Towns (UIDSSMT) and integrated Housing and Slum Development Programme (IHSDP). The Mission is for a period of seven years beginning from 2005-06.

(c) and (d) Yes, Sir. Decision to keep number of cities covered under JNNURM around 60 was taken with the approval of Government. However, cities which are not covered, under Sub-Mission-I Urban Infrastructure and Governance of the JNNURM have been covered under UIDSSMT of JNNURM.